

APRIL

1936

EDUCATION

A JOURNAL OF REPUTATION

FEATURE ARTICLES

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM of HARLEM
By Myles A. Paige

HARLEM HOUSING PROBLEMS
Prepared by
The Consolidated Tenants' League

THE PROBLEM OF
THE NEGRO LAWYER
By Horace I. Gordon

POEMS

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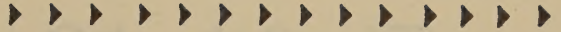
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EDUCATION



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Vol. II

APRIL, 1936.

No. 1.

THE FIRST MILE

WITH the publication of our March number, *EDUCATION* closed its first volume and placed it aside. That volume was very interesting from the publishers' point of view, since they had to finance the publication. But they were more than repaid to stand aside and watch the favorable reaction of the public toward their production. It is true that much has not been accomplished, but we are satisfied with results.

During the year many suggestions have come to us in the way of friendly and constructive criticism; advice in improvement and so on. We take pleasure in adopting a few beginning with this issue, the publication of which starts our New Year. We also suggest that our readers continue to advise us from time to time just what kind of magazine they would have.

—:—

AN IDEA FOR SOMEONE

THERE are over 300,000 people in Harlem— a good sized city. Walk from 155th Street to 125th Street; from the East River to Amsterdam Avenue, and one will notice hardly one business of any commercial or industrial consequence. As an observer pointed out to the writer a few days ago that in the Dunbar National, the Chelsea and the Empire City Savings Banks there are hundreds of thousands of dollars lying idle or invested outside of the community which could be utilized to the direct benefit of the residents. Why isn't this done? Is it for lack of talent, initiative or co-operation or all three combined? It is none. What we lack is honor, dependability.

The public has been "burnt" so many times that now it is unwilling to invest its hard earned cash unless it is reasonably sure of a guarantee against loss. We must overcome that obstacle. We must regain our honor, our dependability.

EDUCATION suggests that everyone think this over, especially the leaders among our business men. It is an idea for some smart, reputable and honest person or persons.

PLATFORM—A (1) The education of our people. (2) The advertisement of the virtues rather than the vices of our people

B (1) In view of the fact that discrimination hinders rather than aids the progress of a nation, the urgent need for employment of our people in more varied fields than now exists, is obvious. (2) In view of the rapid progress of our people since emancipation, inherent ability and competence as a part of their make-up cannot be justly denied. Consequently encouragement and promotion of Negro initiative and business on a larger scale.

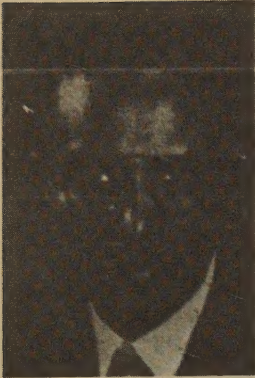
C Whereas housing and housing conditions are deplorable and whereas unscrupulous landlords, taking advantage of the congestion which now exists in Harlem, have resorted to the exploitation of our people in the community, a peaceful, intelligent solution is advocated.

D Proper representation of our people in State and National legislatures.

E The promotion of amicable and friendly relationship among all people.

The School System of Harlem

(An Address by Myles A. Paige)



MYLES A. PAIGE
President, Harlem Lawyers Assn.

Mr. Chairman, Honored
Guests, Rev. Pastor and
Beloved Harlemites:

It is particularly fitting that we, who one year ago today were labeled race-rioters should meet in sober conference to consider the developments in this community since that explosion of popular resentment to the existing order of things in Harlem. There was conscious excitement and expectation of further and more serious outbursts, so we had the appointment by the Mayor of an investigating committee to study the underlying causes of the disturbance.

One of the first reports submitted by that Committee was on Education and the Schools in Harlem. The report was submitted on May 22, 1935 and stated that it had been definitely determined that the unhappy school conditions were a "potent factor" in causing the disturbances of March 19, 1935. As a result of its findings, the Committee suggested a number of recommendations to appease at least in part the minds and hearts of the most complacent group of human beings in this nation.

Now let it be clearly understood by all, that this is not a mass meeting to inflame the disgruntled sufferers to outbursts of indignation, nor is this a partisan political campaign endeavoring to place the entire blame for these unfortunate conditions upon the present City Administration, but we will hold it accountable for the continuance of these conditions which reasonably it could adjust.

This is a conference of representatives from reputable organizations of this community which are devoutly interested in procuring for the children of Harlem the best educational program and facilities available to any other public school child in the city of New York.

Let us then in the few minutes I have, inspect the educational plant of Harlem in comparison with that of the rest of this great City to determine our status. I will present the results of my investigation under three heads:

1. The complaints addressed to the Board of Education of the City of New York.

Those addressed to the District Superintendents, Principals: 1 Teachers.

Returning to the Parents and Community in

The Board of Education has complete supervision of the school system of the city, and the right and duty to determine the needs and supply the necessary demands within the approved budget of the city for each community within its confines.

New schools are being constructed in other sections, classes are being reduced, additional Recreational facilities are being provided, yet Harlem finds itself practically in the same position it was over ten years ago, and in many instances the conditions of need existed twenty years ago, in spite of our greatly increased population, and discriminating confinement to this definite area of the City and State. The drop in population of Manhattan as a whole has been used as an escape for political and prejudicial building of schools in other sections of the city rather than in Harlem. In the last 10 years, Harlem received two new junior high schools and elementary schools combined, while during that same period Queens received seventy-eight (78) new schools.

Let me point out briefly some of our complaints against the Board of Education.

a. Why do they require our children even up to the 6th year (12 years of age) to use kindergarten seats and equipment when this makes it impossible for them to be comfortable and thus attentive to their school work?

b. Why continue its congested classes when they have determined that the normal seating capacity should be 28.5 per room and we have in some instances 50 and over, with an average of 45 approximately—and when at the same time this area is classed as underprivileged and requiring less than the normal 28.5 seating arrangement?

c. Why do they maintain this unusual congestion in the worse firetraps in the city, endangering the lives of thousands of children? An instance is readily at hand in P. S. 89 where a fire occurred about a year ago, and practically destroyed an entire wing of the building constructed in 1889. And this damage occurring when the fire department is right in the school yard, and less than 10 feet from the wing which burned. It is most fortunate that the fire occurred after school hours, but most unfortunate that the fire department was so near, for I am sure that had it been a block away the whole building would have been destroyed, and we may have gotten one new school building.

We have P. S. 68 in 128th Street, constructed in 1874; P. S. 157, constructed in 1895; P. S. 5, 140th Street and P. S. 90, constructed about 1900, as was P. S. 119 in 1899. Three of these still have only outdoor toilets, obsolete ventilation, positive firetraps and overcrowded with small children. Yet, the 1936 budget of the Board of Education requested 168 new schools and annexes for the City of New York and included only one annex for Harlem, at an estimated cost of \$400,000 out of \$127,983,800.

Now to save time, I must merely state the other complaints without proper explanation which however, I am sure you are all familiar.

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The Housing Problems

And the Federal Housing Administration

PREPARED BY THE CONSOLIDATED TENANTS' LEAGUE

CAPITAL AND INDUSTRY

Under "An Act" called Public—No. 479—73 D Congress—H. R. 9620, created to encourage improvement in housing standards and conditions, to provide a system of mutual mortgage insurance, and for other purposes, it was enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the following "National Housing Act" be formed. Then and there the creation of a Federal Housing Administration was founded for the renovation and modernizing of houses. Many legal and technical matters have had to be ironed out in order that every possible advantage may be afforded to all industries, financial institutions and individuals who may be affected. It is possible that these rules and regulations will be ready within ten or fifteen days.

At this time it is well to contemplate just what this national act can mean to Harlem. Men everywhere, and almost without exception, have declared that in the business of rehousing in Harlem, not only would the benefits come to the people who live there, but New York City would thereby correct one of its greatest social evils. They say that fulfillment of this task will have the double advantage of giving work where work is now slack and of greatly aiding the social morale of the community. They stress the fact that the Housing Act is also of special significance because it provides effective use of private capital rather than governmental capital.

It represents application of the practice of Amortization to home building and home repair, with every precaution being taken against loading people with debts they cannot comfortably carry.

Loans for modernization will be "Character Loans". They will be based solely on the character of the borrower-homeowner and his ability to repay out of his income. They will be made for work on all types of buildings. These Character Loans will be procured from privately owned financial institutions including commercial savings, and industrial banks, buildings and loan associations, and finance companies.

The borrower is assured of getting credit to which he is entitled at reasonable rates and is protected against incurring new fees and extensive delay.

It is of great importance to realize that the Housing Act is fundamentally a better housing activity. Yet the very nature of this activity certainly will mean work for the laborer and millions in cash spent for all the vast array of goods, particularly durable goods that will be needed. As has been pointed out heretofore, the production and movement of these goods mean additional workmen in the factories and naturally, more men on the railroads and other transportation agencies that move the products.

It is our belief that it will work out like a rolling snowball, and that even those of us who have been deep into this matter since the creation of the Housing movement hardly can realize the unprecedented potentialities for the good that the Housing Act holds.

It has been pointed out that great benefits are to be derived by business through stimulation of the durable goods industries by effective operation of this Act. It is the opinion of many that great numbers of men will be put back to work as early as this fall through operation of modernization provisions of this Act. The home and tenement modernization naturally will enhance property values.

We recommended in our studies that \$7,000,000 are needed within certain slum districts in Harlem as a start in modernizing a total of 65 blocks during the first five months of 1934, this amount being 18% of the total dollars volume of all construction in upper Manhattan. The volume, however, obviously is susceptible to every considerable increase.

In order to be assured of this project it is well to point out the attractive financing terms permitted under the Act. Once this is done there is bound to develop a gratifying volume of work for our mechanics and our draftsmen, and to result in an added stimulus to all general business of the community.

It is folly to think that there can be complete recovery or even an appreciable number of jobs with so important an industry as construction paralyzed as it has been for the past five years or more. The word "paralyzed" is used because it is estimated that 1187 buildings are in need of repairs, and that 625 are in need of immediate destruction.

Their classification by arithmetical progression is as follows, and shows tenement conditions as far as investigations go.

Hall toilets used by 2 families	150	Houses
" " 4 families	89	"
" " 4 or more families ..	34	"
Dark and foul sleeping rooms.....	594	"
Sleeping rooms without windows	102	"
Cellars occupancy	1163	"
Wooden (inflammable) fire traps.....	1092	"
Public halls, possibly never cleansed.....	470	"
Although required, bells not ringing....	1492	"
Bells torn out	983	"
Garbage in heaps with stenches though required by law to be removed by landlord	436	"

It is our opinion that a modernization program sufficient to end these slums will have the effect of immediately employing a few hundred men for a reasonable period of time. Wages derived therefrom will be put into merchandise purchasing power and the subsequent stimulation of economic recovery and restoration of normal conditions.

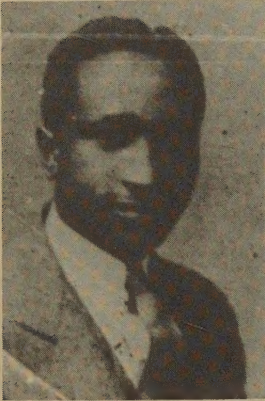
NEED FOR COMMUNITY AWAKENING.

If the apparently impossible could be realized, name that the community church, press, and leaders could be on the great present possibilities which may appear too after the present fund is exhausted, we can have housing by modernization, in lieu of new Government's aid.

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The Problem of the Negro Lawyer

By Horace I. Gordon



COUNSELLOR HORACE I. GORDON

than it is for other lawyers, alien, not only in race, but also far removed from the Negro, not only from the point of view of the social outlook, or distant by reason of racial origin, but also remote from the centers of Negro life and activities.

The vast majority of Negroes have long been taught and made to believe that members of their own race labor under disabilities and handicaps quite alien to those of persons of opposite hue. This, despite the fact that the Negro practitioner has attended the same schools, colleges, universities and law schools, learned the same things, studied the same subjects out of the same text books, and under the same professors as those of other races; has passed the same examinations and has been admitted to the same "bar" on the same terms as those of other races.

Many of the things which may be said here may not meet with the approval of many of my fellow members of the Bar, both among my own as well as the opposite race; but the fact still remains, however much they may disapprove of this frank discussion of some of the problems facing the Negro lawyer, that the things which have been said as well as those things that will be said are the truth and nothing but the truth.

It is said that the truth stretches but never breaks and that truth will always stand out from lies as oil refuses to mix with water. These truths which I shall bring to light here will, I am sure, be able to stand that test.

The lawyer's greatest problem has been, and still is, to convince the members of his own race from whom he gets his business and on whom he must rely and depend to practice, to utilize his training and demonstrate his

ability, that he is just as good and even a better lawyer than many of those of other hue. Where lawyers of an alien race can and do influence Negro clients and litigants with glib talk as to "contacts," intimacy, family ties, fraternal and other social connections with the goddess of Justice, the Negro lawyer does not and cannot, because of circumstances peculiar to him by reason of his color, lead his client to believe, nor feed color to the belief that everything depends on whom his lawyer knows or dines with or plays poker, pinochle or black-jack with. He is unable, because of special and peculiar circumstances, to create that psychological atmosphere in consonance with that which the average Negro client is led to believe and does with reasonable certainty believe.

This is as true as to the Negro lawyer as it is to any other social unit.

In Harlem where there is a Negro population of upwards a quarter of a million and approximately about one hundred Negro lawyers, the Negro lawyer finds it much more difficult to get the clientele and the patronage of the members of his own race,

than it is for other lawyers, alien, not only in race, but also far removed from the Negro, not only from the point of view of the social outlook, or distant by reason of racial origin, but also remote from the centers of Negro life and activities.

The average Negro has been led to believe and does believe in "influence" and the so-called "fix." He wants to know, first of all, how much "pull," as he terms it, has the lawyer he is about to retain.

In criminal cases, as well as civil matters, many fees, many retainers, and the size of those fees and retainers have depended and do depend on the psychological atmosphere created for the client in connection with the lawyer's "contacts." It is more a question of who is he, whom he knows, than what he knows.

The average Negro lawyer, manifestly, has no complaints against the Courts nor against the average run of judges. They are human beings and as such the Negro lawyer knows that they must act and behave like human beings. Environment being a very potent factor in the determining of human conduct, the courtesies and the decorum with which the Negro lawyer is treated in the courts is as good as can be expected in the ordinary run of things. In fact, discrimination against Negro lawyers is practised manifestly, not by the courts, but by the Negro clients who either believe that the Negro lawyer is unable to do for them, that which those of alien races are able to, because of "contacts" and "influences" which is but a psychological reaction from the peculiar serum with which the Negro is inoculated in one way or another.

Important litigation, that is litigation which is important from the standpoint of fees involved is seldom if ever given to the Negro lawyer. Important criminal cases and even minor ones wherein the defendant or those of his friends who are in charge of arrangements for his "legal funeral," have money, are seldom if ever given to the Negro lawyer. If he does get these cases, he must take them at fees far lower than under ordinary conditions are paid to non-Negro lawyers.

The Negro lawyer has viewed with serious apprehension, the practice which has grown up in certain quarters of assigning white attorneys to defend Negroes who are without the aid of counsel and who request that counsel be assigned for the defense. Many times there are five or more experienced, able and capable Negro attorneys present when the request of the prisoner is made and not one of them is asked if he would be willing to appear in behalf of the Negro defendant. White attorneys who are either known to the prosecutor or to the Court, it seems, are asked to volunteer their

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JOHN DOE SAYS

I'm in good company. If you don't believe it, just look next door. He has strayed from the path of education—I mean the editor of this "reputable journal". For one year he has ploughed along the path of righteousness, keeping this sheet clean and edifying: now, with the coming of our second volume, No. 1 (praise the Lord) even the very face of the type he uses is changed. From cover to cover he and his colleagues have, to use their own term, "improved"—bah!—EDUCATION. Do you notice that even "The Negro Needs" on the front cover of past numbers is removed? Explaining, one of the members of the Board of Directors of the Society, said that many people of our race "resented" the insinuation: I don't believe it.

However, the staff promised to make the second volume a better one than the first, having from time to time new creations, added departments (like the one next door, I guess) local and foreign news items (borrowing someone else's idea) and whenever possible, more pictures (converting a reputable periodical into a common tabloid). But the biggest disgrace is next door. I wish, and perhaps I urge, every reader of my column to send in his or her resentment at such a flagrant abuse of EDUCATION.

To be truthful, folk, it will have to be either Seventh Avenue Susie or me: both of us will not occupy adjoining columns. Please send in your opinions. Protest! protest against the inclusion of Seventh Avenue Susie on the staff of EDUCATION.

Below I have prepared a box for you. If you want that woman to be with us, clin out the box: mark an X under her name and send or mail it to us: if, on the other hand, you care to have me remain, mark an X under my name and forward clipping.

JOHN DOE	Seventh Avenue Susie
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Seventh Avenue SUSIE

Can you imagine, folks? Someone is tryin' to educate us! Well, all I can say is that we folks on Seventh Avenue don't read. The time we take to read we could be looking the boys over. Imagine Seventh Avenue Susie puzzling her brain about education! I have enough, thank you. Let the other person do that—maybe he'll take a double portion for him and me. I want to live longer. The best way to do that is to get up at one o'clock in the afternoon, catch yourself a sandwich and maybe a cup of coffee, dress in your best and don't forget to slick your hair and paint your lips and finger nails: take in an afternoon show, but be sure when you leave the show in the evening that your escort who did not accompany you on entering, leaves with you. Don't hesitate to take him to the chon-suev and permit him to pay for your supper. You might also suggest a night club after that. Dance, drink and have a good time until morning. If you find your way home, alright: if not, alright. You'll find it later. That's the way I keep young, and I never miss a night.

So you see I haven't any time to think of education, race problems or world affairs. If I do read, I read the "funnies."

See you next month right in this column or you may "come up and see me sometime."

Office Boy (* to professional who was mopping his office): Gimme dat mop, boss: you don't know how to use a mop.

Professional: Don't kid yourself, boy: mopping floors made me what I am today.

Awakened Husband (*springing out of bed in the morning): Spring is here!

Wife (getting up from the floor and rubbing her hip): Yes: and the next time you are going to spring out of bed like that, let me know for this bed spring is new.

MULATTO (A DRAMA)

By LANGSTON HUGHES & MARTIN JONES
Presented at
THE VANDERBILT THEATRE

Mulatto, based upon Langston Hughes' poem "Cross," is vivid. It abounds with life—real life. A drama that everyone should see, but a drama that should be denied many; for "many will be unable to break the kernel to get at the nut."

Woven around the home life of a landed Colonel in Georgia who has four illegitimate children by his colored mistress, the play opens up with Mercedes Gilbert, well known actress, writer and poet, acting the part of the mistress. One of her sons, Robert, (acted by Leon Janney) educated in the North, returned to the South and instantly refused to abide by its age-old traditions—he was Colonel Norwood's child and that fact, he felt, afforded him the right of a white son and not the privilege of a "nigger cotton picker." He eventually killed his father and in the furore that ensued, his virtuous sister was raped by the white overseer. Rather than be "strung up" by a posse who hunted him with bloodhounds through swamps for many days and nights, the young killer committed suicide when his pursuers closed in on him.

The magnanimity of the old Southerner, Colonel Norwood, in doing for his "bastards" what he was not legally bound to do, should not be overlooked.

"CROSS"

By LANGSTON HUGHES

My old man's a white old man
And my old mother's black.
If ever I cursed my white old man
I take my curses back.

If ever I cursed my black old mother
And wished she were in hell,
I'm sorry for that evil wish
And now I wish her well.

My old man died in a fine big house,
My ma died in a shack.
I wonder where I'm gr
Being neither white nor

The Housing Problems

Continued from Page Three

Or perhaps we should attempt to arouse industry to create a modernization program for the Harlem citizen. Industry may find an attractive market here. There must be steel, lumber, hardware of all kinds, cement, lime, copper, glass, brick, furnaces, boilers, machinery, vitreous goods and this is an incomplete list. Every plant in which goods are manufactured or fabricated will find a market in Harlem. Those who control industry do not live in Harlem. Notwithstanding the fact, however, Harlem would benefit by even the functions of industry as well as better housing.

Employment in housing means more work for advertisers and promotional concerns, which in turn means more printing work, stereotyping jobs, art work, and so on *ad infinitum*.

Broadly speaking, the Federal Housing Administration will function in two divisions. The first will deal with modernization of the old buildings now in need of repair. Operation of this division calls for a tremendous amount of work and it should create immediate demands for huge advances of credit upon private financial institutions of every type. Such loans under the Housing Act will be placed on a parity with the best collateral loans of the highest liquidity that any bank ever had on its books.

The second division will be that of dealing with mortgages. Because of its wide ramifications and the necessity for the most careful preliminary planning it will not be ready to function until later. When it is placed in motion it will enable private capital to make insured loans for the construction of new houses and to refinance mortgages on existing properties on a similar basis, thus opening up an enormous field of opportunities on a similar basis for investors to utilize profitably and with the utmost of safety funds that would otherwise continue to lie idle.

Operations through the functioning of this division unquestionably will continue for years to come, thus providing safe and profitable employment for both capital and labor. If only partly successful, it will mean prosperity for twenty years, or as long as the activities continue. This is no visionary statement.

The combined program throughout the United States presents a far greater volume of work than was required to restore all the devastated regions of both France and Belgium.

NEW YORK HOUSING LAW—RENTALS

It is asserted by some of the real estate opposition that projects under the State Housing Law do not serve the lowest paid workers. It is maintained that no project should be approved unless they can rent at \$5.00 or \$6.00 per room per month. Unless these same forces advocate direct government subsidy, their contention can only be construed as a subterfuge for those eager to defeat the low cost housing program, be the program slum clearance or modernization of tenements. The facts are that the costs of maintenance, which include water, fuel, light and power, repairs, redecorating, and management, range from \$3.50 to \$4.00 per month per room; in fact charges on first mortgages amount to about \$3.75 per month per room and depreciation to \$3.00 per month per room.

The New York Housing Board in 1933 sought to attain the lowest possible rental that was commensurate with its advanced standard of site planning and building construction.

There is no doubt that higher coverages than those approved by the Board and smaller room sizes and absence of planning by cross ventilation would produce somewhat lower rentals, but the Board was very dubious of the advisability of this short-sighted policy. A more rapid rate of depreciation, increased vacancies and higher maintenance costs result from a lowering of standards.

The law ruled that every contract and sub contract should be supervised and finally approved by the Board to insure the most conservative capitalization, the lowest fixed charges and the lowest possible rentals; continuous inspection during the construction to be undertaken in order that the fulfillment of specifications are assured. That the quarterly and annual statements of each company is analyzed to see that a reasonable efficiency of operation is maintained and that the highest satisfaction is guaranteed to the tenants. The maximum average rental of \$12.50 per room per month in Harlem and \$11.00 elsewhere does not apply automatically with the approval of a project. The rents are fixed at the point that will insure all maintenance and capital charges, and are subject to annual adjustments of the Board.

We are not so certain that this law is so operative for the work on modernization as recently set up by the Federal Government.

Under Federal Housing Act, hundreds of Harlem men should repair 2,000 Harlem structures, local employment assured. \$7,000,000 to be spent would house 8,700 tenants 2,500 families.

The Problem of the Negro Lawyer

Continued from Page Four

services in the defense of Negro defendants. Yet although white attorneys are asked to defend Negro defendants no Negro attorney is ever asked to defend a white defendant. This is a bad and vicious practice and its indulgence and continuance but lends color to the popular belief prevalent among Negroes that the Negro attorney is not as good as attorneys of an alien race. This is either wittingly or unwittingly part of the serum injected into the Negro's mind inoculating him against the contagion of placing confidence in the Negro lawyer. This is but one of the special problems confronting the Negro lawyer and he would like to see the discontinuance of it as such discontinuance would do much to clarify the atmosphere.

Again, too, Negro attorneys view with ever increasing alarm and consternation the methods practiced in the matter of murder assignments. The Negro population contributes its quota of murder trials each and every year. The State provides for the defense of those defendants in murder cases whose means can ill afford the outlay and expenditures necessary for the defense. At least one Negro attorney should be assigned by the Court in the defense of a Negro murderer so that he might reap some of the benefits to be derived from that type of work. But this unfortunately is not the case. It is neither the rule nor the practice to assign Negro attorneys in these cases.

The argument often used is that experienced and capable trial counsel must be assigned, but there is no ground for the belief that among the Negro practitioners, trial counsel of the type needed cannot be found.

Continued on Page Eight

Woman, the Indispensable

What would be the result should all the business women in the United States take a day's rest?

Because it appears that men are still unwilling to admit the indispensability of the fair sex in business, the professions and in industry, Miss Charl Ormond Williams, President of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, decided to convince them "for all time." Observing the National Business Women's Week which started March 10th, she said, in part, over the Columbia Broadcasting System:

"Suppose that the women of the United States should all stay home next Monday for a sort of feminine day of rest; I would not dream, of course, of suggesting that women go on strike. What would happen? The possibilities opened up are so upsetting to the United States that I think we should all consider for just a moment how to avoid them.

The telephone exchanges in every town would be obliged to close. Nearly half a million women are employed by one national telephone company alone.

One million eight hundred thousand women are engaged in the manufacturing business.

Nearly 2,000,000 are employed as clerks.

Over 3,000,000 are employed in domestic or personal service.

Carrying on business today without the telephone is almost impossible, so we can see how the withdrawal of women from the telephone business would cripple business.

Many men would have difficulty in securing a comfortable breakfast if they awoke to a madhouse house-chaos. The majority of restaurants would have a difficult time serving their patrons without the help of waitresses. Many women operate elevators, others man the stores and shops.

Pity the struggles of a man executive without his faithful secretary. The banks and stock exchanges would find it hard work to 'carry on' without women. In 5,000 communities in this country where there are women postmistresses the mail service would suffer. Fancy the plight of airplane passengers without the comforting ministrations of the stewardess.

"The public schools would be forced to close for lack of teachers. And so the picture grows as we imagine what a terrific social and economic upheaval would come about by the complete withdrawal of women from the workaday world."

Although Miss Williams specifically states that she "would not dream of suggesting that women go on strike," we cannot forget that it is a woman's prerogative to change her mind without notice. On that account, therefore, we are convinced "for all time" that women are indispensable in business, profession and industry.

JOHN DOE objects to having *Seventh Avenue Susie* on our staff. He has a message for you. Read his column today—page five.

The School System of Harlem

Continued from Page Two

d. Nursery schools have been in existence over three years, yet Harlem is the only section of the city that hasn't one, though there are more working mothers here than in all the rest of New York, put together.

e. Child guidance bureaus were instituted for particular aid to underprivileged children—yet after five years, Harlem is still without one, though definitely promised last year.

f. There are far too few visiting teachers, though the need is greatest and there are many unemployed teachers anxious for work.

g. The insufficiency of medical, dental and clinical aid in general is appalling.

h. The recreational facilities are most inadequate and only two schools have any decent out door playgrounds, and they are the two junior high schools. For that the children of Harlem must resort to the streets and alleys for play, where anything might happen and subject to all kinds of temptations and pranks.

i. Then we have a most serious complaint to make to the Board of Education and that is the practice of assigning teachers to Harlem for disciplining and punishment either for inefficiency or other misdeeds in schools elsewhere. If there is any juvenile criminality in Harlem, it is due largely to this. These teachers have no interest, sympathy or understanding of the child's problems here. Too we have the added complaint against the Board of Education which is establishing an old age home in Harlem for teachers awaiting retirement through which a serious hazzard is created. Being an underprivileged section we need the best and most energetic teachers here, with an understanding of the real problems. Many of our teachers, both white and colored are straining every effort to give the best of service and aid but the other parasites are destroying their accomplishments.

j. Then we have the further discrimination of the new zoning for our high school students now limited to only four high schools and denied admission to the better ones closer to home.

k. Our adult classes in evening schools are overcrowded to such an extent that the Superintendent of Schools threatened to close registration, instead of making provisions for additional classes, while most of the courses are without proper equipment and do not prepare our anxious and sacrificing adults for higher courses in accredited schools.

l. Then our vocational courses are a great menace to our educational system. There is a decided program of the principals to shunt all of our girls and boys in junior high schools to the vocational schools, and these are without adequate facilities and congested—many giving no training at all, but requiring destitute parents to pay car fare for girls to go to Greenwich House down town to clean other homes without pay. Electrical courses without a motor generator or electric appliances and our children limited to these ill equipped schools. In addition the evening courses are denied to our residents on the ground that they are not actually employed at the trade—thereby making effective the discriminatory practices of private employers and labor unions.

Continued on Page Eight

The School System of Harlem

Continued from Page Seven

We call upon the Board of Education to correct these evils without unnecessary delay.

Now I must pass to the second phase of complaints—to the District Superintendent, Principals and Teachers.

The Superintendent of Schools in this district with the principals and teachers are responsible for

a. Placing the "overage" and opportunity or backward children in the same classes, thereby further and severely handicapping the former.

b. Making no provision for the delinquent child, other than dismissal from the school.

c. Permitting inefficient and unsympathetic teachers to remain, and forcing misguided and prejudicial advisers upon our children.

d. Failing to provide sufficient clean books and equipment—but rather permitting filthy ones to be used.

e. Maintaining unsanitary buildings.

f. Failing to give children and parents proper information about receiving Federal aid for food and clothing under N. Y. A.

g. Discouraging rather than promoting Parent Teachers Associations.

h. Limiting our high school girls to Wadleigh and threatening further congestion and curtailment of work by closing the 135th Street Annex to these courses. I am informed that there is only one Negro teacher in Wadleigh, and that one's name was left off the roster though on the staff for three years—and not one Negro girl in the special courses leading to admission in outstanding Women's Colleges.

I could go further with these but time does not permit.

Efforts have been made by me and Dr. Robinson and others over the past week or more to take up these matters with the District Superintendent but we have been unsuccessful.

So we come to the last phase.

Let us not forget that with every privilege there goes a corresponding obligation and responsibility.—Have we done all in our power to cure these defects? Our children to us should be as dear as the children in any other section of the city are to their parents. We must realize that our efforts are required in the task of educating our children, and even at great physical sacrifices we must supplement the work of the schools at home by our moral and physical cleanliness and manners.

Too many parents are scandalizing their children by immorality and neglect. The Mayor's Committee reported that in one school representing 1600 families, 700 were broken. The majority of delinquents according to statistics, come from broken homes. You should see that your children have the proper home training as well as Christian guidance through our many good church organizations. Supervise the preparation of their school work, and take a personal interest in their progress and deportment.

Every parent should see that in its child's school there is a Parent-Teachers Association, and be an active member of it. Make your complaints there, as well as get your information and if not satisfied go to the teacher, the principal, the district superintendent, even to the Board of Education and the Mayor himself for our rights.

Then if you are not satisfied you have the greatest and most effective weapon of all—one which Harlem has sadly neglected to use sufficiently and effectively and that is to go to the polls and cast your ballot where it will serve you best. Forget about all political parties and their binding rules, and think of Harlem, and your children first—and vote for the individuals who will satisfy your needs and uphold your just desires. Our children of today will be our men of tomorrow—so if we ill provide for them today, they will be our criminals of tomorrow.

Join with the permanent organization to be formed here tonight and begin to work and sacrifice effectively for yourselves and your children.

March 19, 1935, presented your demands upon the community for your just share of employment. You obtained a bit, but you quieted down and again you have nothing.

Let this beginning anew be a sustained drive, not with bricks, bottles and spoken resentment, but with wisely laid plans and intelligent guidance and action and we will achieve our goal and be fit objects of respect for our children and a consolation to ourselves, and deserve the fair and favorable consideration of all who hold positions of service and power, through our efforts, and there will be little need for complaint. Then our children with those of other sections of our great city will praise and revere us, and appreciate the benefits of good government—dispensing justice and equal opportunity to all regardless of race, class or financial position, but for the great and wholesome benefit of all children and people alike.

The Problem of the Negro Lawyer

Continued from Page Six

This practice as well as the studied policy of not placing Negro members of the District Attorney's staff in charge of prosecutions in the courts of General and Special Sessions where large numbers of Negro defendants are to be found have all helped to create and sustain the general belief in the minds of Negroes as to the capabilities and capacities of the Negro attorney.

These are some of the conditions which enable lawyers of alien races to create the false impression and psychological atmosphere among Negro clients and litigants to the economic and professional detriment of the Negro lawyer.

The problem of the Negro lawyer is one filled with many delicate and intricate complications.

There is money as well as work among Negroes, but the average Negro lawyer does not get his proper share of either because of the peculiar conditions attending.

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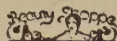
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